

MINUTES OF THE
JOINT HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, January 24, 2001
Room 403, State Capitol Building

Members Present: Sen. David H. Steele, Committee Co-Chair
Rep. Jack A. Seitz, Committee Co-Chair
Sen. D. Edgar Allen
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Rep. Trisha Beck
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. David Litvack
Rep. Rebecca Lockhart
Rep. Carl R. Sanders
Rep. Matt Throckmorton

Members Excused: Sen. L. Steven Poulton

Staff Present: Thor Nilsen, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Norda Shepard, Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Mark Ward, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services
Fredena Myers
Helen Bodily
Tyrus Parker
Jessie Clawson
Lester McNelly
Joyce Smith, Chair, Utah Association of Aging and Adult Services
Helen Goddard, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services
Ken Brown, Chair, State Board for Aging Services
Don LeBaron, State Board of Aging Services
Kevin VanTassell, Member of Local Multi-Disciplinary Team
Ron Stormberg, Director, Adult Protective Services
Dorothy Ball, Volunteer with Adult Protective Services
Stephen Draper, Millard County Commissioner
John Salazar
Mark Walsh, Executive Director, Utah Association of Counties
Bill Cox, Rich County Commissioner
Emma Chacon, Division Director, Office of Recovery Services

Visitor List on File.

Committee Co-Chair Seitz called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m.

Mark Ward, Deputy Director, Department of Human Services, asked that department director, Robin Arnold-Williams be excused as she was out of town on family business. He introduced Helen Goddard, Director, Division of Aging and Adult Services who would be presenting the division's requests.

1. Joyce Smith, Utah Association of Aging and Adult Services

Ms. Smith asked that public testimony be taken at the beginning of her presentation.

Fredena Myers stated she appreciated the Meals-On-Wheels program because it has given her the opportunity to stay at home and have independence.

Helen Bodily said she has worked with the home delivery program for 18 years and has found that the program helps to keep people from entering nursing homes and remain independently in their homes. If people have to be taken off the program, it can be devastating, not only for the homebound person, but for their families as well.

Tyrus Parker, stated that his wife has had Alzheimer's for eight years. He is her main care giver. The Aging Assistance of Davis County has been helping with home help, which allows him to run errands and do other needed things. He stated the agency has been responsive to his needs and any help with funding would be appreciated.

Jessie Clawson, said she is the full time care giver for her mother who has advanced dementia. She has home health assistance three days a week. She stated the home health assistants are well trained and have been very kind and patient with her mother. She stated she would appreciate continued funding for these services.

Lester McNelly stated he is 77 years old, has a son in the American Fork Training School, and has taken care of his aging mother, who has cancer, for many years, but now he needs the care himself. He said that Mountainlands has been a lifesaver for him. He hires a BYU student at \$100 a month for personal grooming. He said Mountainlands is fantastic in meeting the day needs for people like himself. He especially needs the transportation services as he cannot drive.

Joyce Smith, Chair, Utah Association of Aging and Adult Services, thanked the people who came to testify about the assistance they have received through the Aging and Adult Services programs. She stated they try to do everything they can to help people with the needs they have. She said they appreciate all the funding help they receive. She stated they are operating on bare bones. They have reduced their staff and use many volunteers. She urged committee members to support putting these programs on the priority list. The programs need to grow as the senior population is growing.

2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to approve the minutes of 1-19-01 and 1-22-01. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble absent at the time of voting.

3. Voting on Budgets

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to approve the building blocks, without funds at this time, for the Division of Mental Health and Division of Substance Abuse and include the medicaid match, base funding increase, and provider COLA.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously with Sen. Bramble absent at the time of voting.

4. Budget Hearing - Division of Aging and Adult Services

Analyst Thor Nilsen summarized the purpose of the division and it's legal authority. This division is the state authority for aging and adult services and the federal Older American s Act. Most of the programs are funded through the division and some funds flow through to the local AAA's. The analyst is recommending

an overall budget for the division of \$18,788,700, with \$11,475,300 coming from general funds. He briefly discussed programs within the division, which are included in the Analyst Budget book, of in-home services waiting list, adult protective service needs, and long-term care ombudsman needs. He also highlighted the legislative intent language from the 2000 Legislature on appropriation non-lapsing monies. It was actually intended to apply to the FY 2000 appropriations to avoid lapsing funds last June. However, it was inadvertently applied to the 2001 fiscal year. Therefore, barring further legislative action, the division has non-lapsing authority for its FY 2001 budget. Mr. Nilsen drew attention to the recommended funding for the various programs within the division that are included in the Budget Analyst book. He explained that senior center funding is not included in any of the analyst's budgets this year.

Helen Goddard, Division Director, displayed a visual aid built of Legos that represented all of the different funding sources that run through the division. She said that each source, whether if it comes from the federal government or state, comes with a certain amount of money and a certain amount of regulations of eligibility, what services they are eligible for, etc. This sometimes makes it difficult for our seniors in the community to know where they are supposed to go. This is helped by the agencies the division contracts with throughout the state in assessing what is going on with an individual and putting together a package of services the senior client and their families need. Ms. Goddard distributed a printed presentation and explained the programs and the various charts and graphs included in the pamphlet.

Ken Brown, Chair, State Board for Aging Services, explained that the seven board members of the state board had been holding meetings outside of the Salt Lake City area so that people in different areas of the state could give input for review. They have found this a very helpful tool to actually see the effects of the programs and the good that is being done.

Don LeBaron, State Board of Aging Services, distributed a printed statement to committee members. He stated his purpose in coming before the committee was to bring information concerning the building block requested for the Ombudsman Office. He stated the Ombudsman Office is a key link in the state's effort to assure quality services are being delivered. They also investigate reports of abuse of elderly residents. He stated the Ombudsman Office has greatly improved the quality of long-term care in the state. He requested support for funding for an additional 3.5 FTE's to bring the Ombudsman Office up to the strength needed to meet the vital task which they face.

In response to questions from the committee regarding senior abuse and exploitation, Ron Stromberg, Director, Adult Protective Services, explained that the law is very specific that any person who has any reason to believe that an elderly or disabled person is being abused, neglected or exploited, must report such, either to Adult Protective Services or law enforcement.

Dorothy Ball, a volunteer with Adult Protective Services, introduced herself by saying she was a senior citizen, a taxpayer, a voter, and a volunteer. She said she was here today requesting that the committee give very strong consideration to the SSBG grant and the APS investigator for Central Utah. She said it was very, very needed. She told about a new project in the six county area called the Centennial Program which is funded by a federal grant. The program is a group of volunteers who go out into the communities providing information on aging programs and try to increase awareness of the critical condition of the Adult Protective Services in the six county area.

Stephen Draper, Millard County Commissioner, stated he was representing Millard County but also the six county area in Central Utah. He said this area was facing a deficit in their budget which would result in the closure of the Scipo Senior Citizen Center, reduced meals one day a week to Piute County, Wayne County and the Ephraim City area. He asked for support for funding to maintain what they are currently doing and for full funding for SSBG.

John Salazar related to the committee his family's experience in having his mother die in a nursing home from severe dehydration and how the Ombudsman became involved in helping with the investigation.

Rep. Throckmorton requested any documentation, pictures, etc. of elderly abuse and exploitation that could be made available to the committee

5. Utah Association of Counties

Mark Walsh, Executive Director, Utah Association of Counties, introduced Bill Cox, chairman of the committee and a Rich County Commissioner. Mr. Cox stated that as Senior Program Director of Rich County he knows the challenges that counties face each and every day to provide services. He stated there are thousands of people throughout the state who rely on the aging programs for their meals and for their care. He stated there are three big issues; meals, in home service, and transportation. He stated the in-home services and meals on wheels are very important to keep people in their homes and have their needs met. It is difficult to meet the needs of everyone and the biggest problem is money. He asked the committee to take a hard look at the requests and be generous.

Mr. Walsh stated that the counties that run these programs on behalf of the state have prioritized in-home service support. Just to service the waiting list that exists in the counties right now, they would need \$1.7 million in new money. He said the governor has \$1 million in his budget, which would still leave them \$700,000 short. To service the meals program would cost \$1.7 million and there is no new money in the governor's budget.

6. Budget Hearing - Office of Recovery Services

Analyst Thor Nilsen stated this large agency with about 600 employees and a budget of about \$43 million is the collection arm of various systems in government to collect child support. The analyst is recommending a total budget of \$42.4 million, including \$12.1 million from the General Fund. He discussed a \$20,000 transfer to the EDO Executive Director's Office Budget, stating this was a housekeeping adjustment. Mr. Nilsen explained the breakdown of the programs within the division that are included in the Analyst Budget book. He stated the ORS contracts with the Attorney General's Office for legal services. Committee members stated they would like to know how much the Attorney General's Office charges per hour. Mr. Nilsen pointed out that there is a new program in the division for FY2001 for Medical Collections, which previously was part of the Investigations and Collections program. Mr. Nilsen pointed out a correction on Page 16 of the Division report in the Analyst Budget book. It should say Office of Recovery Services instead of Division of Aging and Adult Services. All figures are correct for the Office of Recovery Services.

Emma Chacon, Director, Office of Recovery Services, distributed and discussed the Office of Recovery Services Annual Report FY 2000. She stated the report would give committee members more specific performance outcome data and accomplishments of last year. It also gives program descriptions of each of the areas within the division. There is also in front of the report a list of telephone numbers for each program and "Constituent Complaint Process" information. Ms. Chacon stated we are mandated under federal law to have a Child Support Services Program in every state. Services must be provided for child support services in every case where an individual is receiving financial assistance from the state, but under federal law the services must be provided to anyone who wants to apply for them.

7. Other Committee Business

Rep. Throckmorton distributed a copy of a letter from Leone E. O'Day concerning senior citizen issues.

Rep. Hogue requested a copy of line item budgets for the divisions within the departments. Co-Chair Seitz asked the fiscal analyst to make them available.

MOTION: Rep. Hogue moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Seitz adjourned the meeting at 4:24 p.m.

Minutes reported by Norda Shepard, Secretary.

Sen. David Steele
Committee Co-Chair

Rep. Jack A. Seitz
Committee Co-Chair